

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Katsuaki Akama
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also enclosed is a International Search Report dated September 18, 2001 for corresponding International Application No.: PCT/JP01/06825 and a Supplementary European Search Report dated December 4, 2009, for corresponding European Application No.: EP 01 95 6818. All of the documents listed in the International Search Report were submitted in the IDS filed on January 23, 2004.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed together with an RCE and prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due. However any fee determined due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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